

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /091 W
-----079920 111822Z /47

R 111530Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8300
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2343

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US
SUBJECT: POST NIMETZ ATTITUDES IN CYPRUS

SUMMARY. IN SPITE OF HEATED ATMOSPHERE IN CYPRUS PRECEDING HIS
VISIT, COUNSELOR NIMETZ' CONSULTATIONS AVOIDED POSSIBLE
PITFALLS AND DISCOVERED A BIT MORE FLEXIBILITY ON CYPRUS
PROBLEM AMONG GOC LEADERS, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN MINISTER
ROLANDIS. TURKISY CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP WELCOMED VIST AND
CONFIRMED ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE ALL ISSUES. GOC
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PROBABLY WILL PURSUE CYPRUS PROBLEM AT UNGA AND
PERHAPS AT SC. END SUMMARY.

1. FRENZIED PRESS TREATMENT OF NIMETZ VISIT IN EARLY
STAGES RAISED EXPECTATIONS, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC MIND,
TO SUCH EXTENT THAT WHEN REAL, CONSULTATIVE NATURE OF VISIT
WAS FINALLY SUCCESSFULLY CONVEYED, SOME SENSE OF

DISAPPOINTMENT WAS PERHAPS NATURAL. PREVALENT PUBLIC MOOD IN WAKE OF VISIT APPEARS TO BE (1) PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY VISIT WAS NECESSARY IF IT WAS ONLY TO DISCERN VIEWS AND (2) A LINGERING EXPECTATION THAT U.S. IS PREPARING AN INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS. PART OF THIS LATTER REACTION IS WISHFUL THINKING OF THE RIGHT-WING THAT U.S. WILL BE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE, AND PART (IN LEFTIST CIRCLES) IS UNEASINESS THAT U.S. MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION FAVORING NATO. OVERALL, PRESS, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, BADLY DISTORTED NATURE OF VISIT.

2. AMONG GOC OFFICIALS, SOME DISAPPOINTMENT WAS EVIDENT, ESPECIALLY THAT NOTHING WITH REGARD TO FURTHER MOVES ON CYPRUS HAD COME OUT OF TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG'S VISIT TO U.S. (GOC APPARENTLY HAD CONVINCED ITSELF THAT ELEKDAG'S TRIP MUST HAVE BEEN TO DISCUSS FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS OF TURKISH SIDE'S PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS.) ONCE INTO DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, GOC OFFICIALS ACCEPTED VISIT FOR WHAT IT WAS AND DISPLAYED A WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE AND SUGGEST POSSIBLE NEW DIRECTIONS TOWARD AGREEMENT. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF FOREIGN MINISTER ROLANDIS, WHO CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE A PRACTICAL, PROBLEM SOLVING APPROACH. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT COMMIT GOC TO ANY PARTICULAR LINE; POLICY DECISIONS HAD TO BE TAKEN BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AFTER DISCUSSION BY NATIONAL COUNCIL.
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3. POLICY DIRECTION GOC HAS IN MIND WAS REVEALED IN BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO PRESS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AFTER NIMETZ-GOC PORTION OF DISCUSSIONS WERE COMPLETED (NICOSIA 2303); HE EMPHASIZED TO JOURNALISTS THAT GOC POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED AT ALL AND IT STILL INTENDED TO PURSUE CYPRUS PROBLEM BEFORE UNSC. (DURING DISCUSSIONS, ROLANDIS HIMSELF REPEATED THAT GOC INTENDED TO PURSUE BOTH TRACKS -- NEGOTIATIONS AND INTERNATIONALIZATION -- EMPHASIZING ONE OR THE OTHER DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS.)

4. AMONG TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP, NO CHANGE OF ATTITUDE WAS NOTED. DENKTASH AND HIS AIDES CONTINUED TO EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ANY AND ALL DIFFERENCES ONCE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WERE RESUMED BUT DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY NEW IDEAS ABOUT MECHANISM FOR GETTING TALKS STARTED AGAIN.

5. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE GOC HAD ALREADY DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE BEFORE NIMETZ VISIT TO PURSUE CYPRUS PROBLEM AT UNGA AND SC AND THAT NOTHING TRANSPIRED TO PERSUADE IT TO CHANGE ITS MIND. THEREFORE UNLESS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS TAKE PLACE ON NEGOTIATING FRONT IN NEXT

COUPLE WEEKS TO CONVINCE GOC THAT ITS INTERESTS WOULD
BE BETTER SERVED BY AVOIDING CONTENTIOUS DEBATE AT UNGA,
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION CAN BE HEADED
OFF. HOWEVER, GOC APPEARS TO BE A BIT MORE WARY OF
RECOURSE TO SC; KYPRIANOU HAS SAID TIMING OF THAT RECOURSE
WOULD DEPEND ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH WORLD LEADERS IN
NEW YORK IN LATE SEPTEMBER. IF HE FINDS CONSIDERABLE
OPPOSITION AMONG SC MEMBERS TO RAISING ISSUE THERE, OR
IF IT APPEARS CYPRUS WOULD NOT GET AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION,
HE MIGHT DECIDE TO POSTPONE IT. END COMMENT.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATMOSPHERE, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NICOSI02343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780369-1278
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780981/aaaacplj.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c9ce852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1485548
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST NIMETZ ATTITUDES IN CYPRUS SUMMARY. IN SPITE OF HEATED ATMOSPHERE IN CYPRUS PRECEDING HIS VISIT, COUNSELOR NIMETZ\ CONSULTATIONS AVOIDED POS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US, (NIMETZ, MATTHEW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c9ce852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014